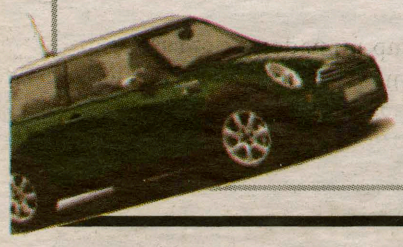
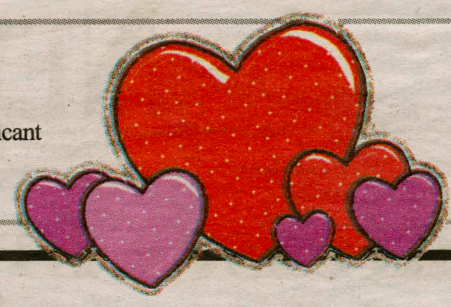


PARK IT

Responses to the new parking system.
See page 6

HOT SPOTS

Where to take your significant other on Valentine's Day.
See page 7



OPEN MIC

Students display a slew of talents at Open Mic night.
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THE SPECTATOR

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Volume LI Number 16

ACS celebrates Chinese Lunar New Year

by Jonathan Fung '12
News Editor

To some students at Hamilton, the New Year comes twice a year. Everyone knows that Jan. 1 is New Years Day, but not many know that there is another New Year that occurred last Thursday, Feb. 3.

Despite its winter occurrence, Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year or "Spring Festival," begins on the first day of the first month in the traditional Chinese calendar and ends with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the holiday. The Chinese calendar occurs in cycles of 12 years, with each year representing a different animal.

> **"Getting a taste of the cuisine and learning about the holiday really made this event special."**

This year is the fourth year in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. The year of the Rabbit is generally associated with home and family, artistic pursuits, diplomacy and keeping peace.

In an effort to raise awareness of diversity and multiculturalism at Hamilton, the Asian Cultural Society (ACS) hosted the Lunar New Year Celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 9 in the Tolles Pavilion. The event had a strong showing with almost a hundred students showing up to celebrate in the festivities. The Lunar New Year celebration began with a presentation from two members of the club, ACS Co-Chair Yan Zhen '13 and Matthew Ha '14, who described the history and the importance of the New Year. Following the presentation by Zhen and Ha, traditional and popular music from Asia filled the room as hungry faculty and students lined up to feast on the delectable cuisine from the Asian Bistro and Grill in local New Hartford.

"Having a really big dinner for the Holiday is a great way to bring people together," reflected Zhen. "It is a great way to incorporate the whole community and to spread awareness on campus."

"I think that this event was a great way to learn about the Chinese New Year. Getting a taste of the cuisine and learning about the holiday really made this event special," said Knute Gailor '13.

The ACS strives to educate and familiarize people with diverse Asian cultures to obtain cultural enrichment. In addition to hosting the Lunar New Year celebration, the ACS was also involved with last semester's Diwali celebration.

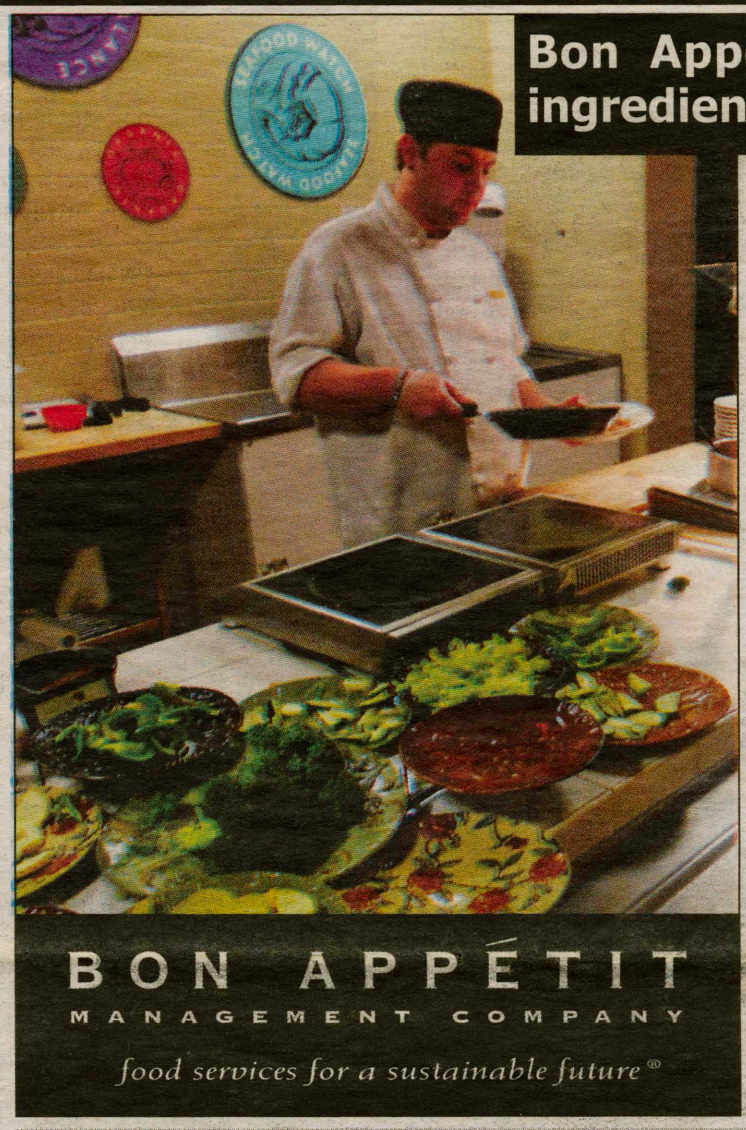
Besides the two celebration events, the ACS also hosts tea ceremony parties with teas from India, Vietnam, China, Korea and other Asian countries. The club works towards promoting diversity to the college campus by hosting holiday events, gatherings, guest lecturers and documentary showings. The club has grown over the years, mostly from the strong presence and involvement of new members.

The ACS has plans to continue collaborating with other groups on campus, to spread awareness for Holi, the "Festival of Colors," a traditional Indian Holiday. This year, Holi begins on March 20. The club is excited to collaborate with other clubs and organizations to present this event to Hamilton later this spring.

PHOTO BY SUMAN SARKER '11

Students gather with Asian Cultural Society in the Tolles Pavilion to celebrate 2011 as the Year of the Rabbit.

Bon Appétit adds new ingredient: student input



by Jordyn Taylor '12
News Contributor

Longing for a home-cooked meal is common among Hamilton students, especially when getting dinner might mean a 15 minute trek through a treacherous snowstorm. Hamilton's dining company, Bon Appétit, makes an effort to appease students' appetites by seeking input from those who frequent the dining halls. Bon Appétit has traditionally provided a bulletin board and comment cards in each of the dining halls. This year, Bon Appétit is taking the idea behind the comment cards one step further: they have formed a Food Committee.

Bon Appétit General Manager Patrick Raynard says the main goal of the Food Committee is "to have student input in what we are currently doing and what dining at Hamilton will be like in the future. It is important to us that whatever changes we make are changes students want." Since

*see **Focus Groups**, page 2*

Black America still suffers social, economic inequalities

by Kate Moore '12
News Editor

Four decades after the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Americans elected the first black President of the United States. This evolution of political rights for African Americans may give the illusion of success, but according to Associate Professor of Philosophy Todd Franklin, Black America has changed its tune regarding the future several times in recent history.

In a discussion entitled "Obama and the State of Black America," Franklin compared his own generation with his mother's by highlighting the different attitudes expressed in each generation's music. Franklin's mother's favorite song from her youth, "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke, laments the conditions of the Jim Crow era while looking forward to the Civil Rights Movement. This emphasis on hope contrasts significantly with the theme of disillusionment in a song from Franklin's youth, "The Message" by Grandmaster Flash. While the legal and political woes of Black America have been mostly addressed, many of the social and economic problems persist into the present day. As the lyrics to "The Message" assert, Black Americans are still relegated to a second-rate life.

In a clear illustration of how little has actually changed, Franklin examined unemployment rates over the course of the past 30 years. In 1982, the unemployment rate for blacks was a little more than half that of whites. In 2008, prior to President Obama's election, the unemployment rate for blacks was a little less than half that of whites. But as of January 2011, unemployment for blacks has risen to about half that of whites; the racial gap has increased under the Obama Administration.

Given the remaining — and even worsening — social and economic inequalities between white and Black America, Franklin concluded that President Obama cannot be the salvation so many had hoped for during the election season of 2008. This is not a personal fault of the President's, but rather a realistic assessment of the influence a single politician can have in effecting change.

"[Obama's] presidency is insufficient to transform the situation for many blacks," said Franklin. "He is not a 'black messiah.' He is not saving Black America, at least not yet."

Rather, Franklin sees President Obama's role as that of a messenger, whose mantra is one of hope and encouragement. Franklin then posed a question to his audience: "If Black Americans hear and heed Obama's message about the nature of hope, what types of Black efforts will be required to substantially improve the state of Black America?"

Many students kept with the theme of hope and encouragement, arguing that an increased awareness could initiate social changes such as improved living conditions, which are required for broader opportunities such as

*see **Black America**, page 2*

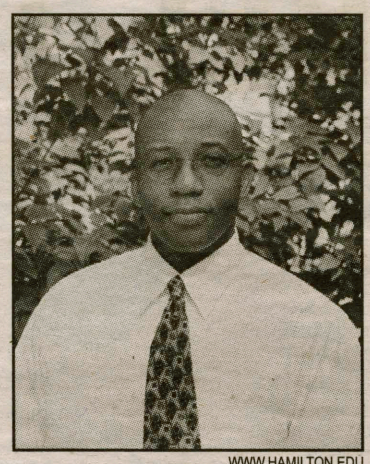
Lecture addresses myth of the "black messiah"

from ***Black America****, page 1*

education. Students also warned against complacency now that Obama has an opportunity to represent the political progress of Black America. He is, after all, a politician who cannot fully dedicate himself to a cause without appearing to favor a specific sector of the national population. Another student posited that while Obama is certainly an "other," he does not necessarily represent Black America. Others argued that Obama's achievements have opened doors for people, even if only by providing hope for change.

Finally, Franklin asked his audience to consider what the current generation plans to do with its hope for the future of Black America. Debate ensued regarding whether this generation actually possesses the hope that characterized earlier generations. While many parrot the sentiments of the Civil Rights era, the disillusionment of recent decades tempers this emotion today. Participants eventually determined that atmosphere of inclusiveness will be important in achieving the goals of Black America. A student pointed out that non-blacks in the audience had likely felt left out of the conversation and that the best way to effect change would be for Black America to reach out to potential allies on an individual and national scale.

President Obama's message of hope in action does ultimately resonate with today's generation, which believes that Black America needs to reach out instead of sitting back and waiting for a messiah to offer a solution.



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Todd Franklin, Associate Professor of Philosophy, discussed Black America.

Students take advantage of new feedback options

from ***Focus Groups****, page 1*

the committee had its first meeting of the semester on Feb. 3, no changes have been implemented yet, but Raynard insists that changes will happen soon.

When asked what food changes they would like to see in Commons, Scott Pillette '14 said, "I would like to see bigger cups for drinks, more variety in the pizza bar, less chicken dishes and more of other meats. They do chicken dishes a lot."

Dan Feinberg '12 said, "I like getting veggie burgers, but it would be even healthier if they had whole wheat buns."

Aside from innovations in dining options, students can expect to see improvements in Bon Appétit's communication. Raynard said the company is developing "an e-mail address created just for more feedback from students (food@hamilton.edu), a Bon Appétit at Hamilton Facebook page, consistency of menus on My Hamilton page, an events calendar with up-coming events for each month and Bon Appétit feedback. One day a week, the chef and I will have an area set up in the dining halls to obtain more feedback from students."

> **"One day a week, the chef and I will have an area set up to obtain more feedback"**

The Food Committee extends an open invitation to any students who want to see their food ideas transformed into an edible reality. Meetings occur every other Thursday at 4 p.m. in McEwen; the next one is Feb. 17.

Student Assembly Update

by Katie Hee '14
News Contributor

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week

One out of three college-aged women have suffered with issues related to body image. Student Assembly has agreed unanimously to support the events of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, from Feb. 21 - 25. A group of Hamilton Students, supported by the College and the Greek societies, will be working to raise awareness of eating disorders. They have raised $10,000 to host events such as Mirror-less Monday, a nutrition talk with Hamilton's nutritionist, keynote speaker Jenny Schaefer as well as a speak out event in the Glen House.

Fall PaperCut results

This fall, the final test of the PaperCut system went into effect. PaperCut is a program that aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary paper used in printing by providing quotas for students based on class year. Students who exceed the quota are charged for additional printing. The results show that instituting Papercut has saved over $9,000 and 200 trees. Only 154 students went over their quotas. Twelve percent of seniors, 7 percent of juniors, 9 percent of sophomores and 5 percent of first-years went over their quotas. The median payment for going over was $10. ITS also discovered that there was no correlation between the students who went over and the classes that they took.

Alcohol and controlled substance committee

A resolution to create an ad-hoc alcohol and controlled substance committee within Student Assembly was debated. The committee would be a liaison for the student body and the committee officer would fill one of the Executive Council seats on the Alcohol Coalition, a group of faculty who meet weekly to discuss these issues. This committee would be representative of the student body and would discuss more individual issues at its meetings. Student Assembly discussed the language and mission of the resolution and decided to vote on it next week.

Science News

Road ecologist examines highway tolls on animal populations

by Kate Moore '12
News Editor

One of the deadliest decisions a porcupine can make is crossing a busy road in Upstate New York. According to Erika L. Barthelmess, associate professor of Biology at St. Lawrence University, porcupines take the "most frequently hit" title among road kill in the area. In fact, medium—sized animals such as raccoons, skunks and porcupines are far more likely to meet their demise on a highway than the more obvious victims, such as deer.

Barthelmess shared her research on road ecology in a recent lecture entitled "Roads and Wildlife: The impact of roads on mammal population in Northern New York." However, she was quick to point out that the title of her talk was misleading.

"One of the real challenges of road ecology is, if I tell you that 100 porcupines are killed, how do we know if that's an important number?" said Barthelmess. "Interpreting these numbers is very challenging if you don't have an abundance of data on the particular organisms you're studying."

> **"Interpreting these numbers is very challenging if you don't have an abundance of data on the particular organism..."**

Though Barthelmess has made use of distance sampling and mark-recapture methods, she has not yet been able to conclude if the high frequency of porcupine deaths poses a considerable threat to the population. Given that porcupines are long-lived animals and only produce a single offspring per year, she believes it may be likely that roads represent a serious danger to porcupines and other rodents and small mammals.

Barthelmess gathered data on road impacts by routinely checking three routes in the Canton, NY area for road kill. After surveying 7,904 kilometers over the course of 44 weeks, Barthelmess found that omnivorous and herbivorous animals constituted a larger portion of victims than carnivores, and that medium-sized animals were most likely to be hit. She also discovered that peaks in porcupine road-related deaths coincided with mating and dispersal periods.

Though unable to conclude if the high rate of porcupine deaths represents a threat to the species, Barthelmess pointed to potential solutions such as highway over- and underpasses that allow animals to cross roads safely. However, these passageways also present a problem by channeling all animals, regardless of species, into one area. Though a porcupine's chances of surviving a road-crossing would be better if it took a tunnel, it would still be in danger if a natural predator used the tunnel at the same time.

Dichotomous pregnancy narrative complicates fetal personhood

by Allison Eck '12
Managing Editor

In 1965, *Life* magazine published a series of groundbreaking images by the Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson. The pictures captured the marvel of the human fetus with newfound clarity; they also fostered changes in cultural and obstetrical views of life before birth.

Monday night in a lecture titled, "How We Begin: The Origins and Consequences of Fetal Personhood," Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong discussed the possible ramifications of fetal personhood Her lecture was sponsored by the Inequality and Equity Program of the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center.

The principal thesis of Armstrong's argument was that the public imagination, specifically its interpretation of certain cultural images and discourses, has perhaps more directly influenced the status of fetal personhood than the abortion debate has.

Armstrong argued that this public perception of pregnancy is complex. The dualism inherent in the simultaneous struggle and intimacy between woman and fetus gives rise to metaphors and images that suggest a complicated relationship.

"That relationship between pregnant woman and fetus is unlike any other human relationship—and thus the maternal-fetal relationship challenges our conventional understandings," Armstrong said. Pregnancy is the object of both reverence and ridicule, sickness and healthy fertility; it is, according to Armstrong, both sacred and profane.

Because there is no unified narrative regarding pregnancy among the public, legal and medical views of pregnancy are just as unclear. Furthermore, the disparity in belief stretches across time—not just social location or ideology. For example, ivory manikins in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries portrayed women as "containers" for fetuses; these manikins were used to train physicians in anatomy.

> **"That relationship between pregnant woman and fetus is unlike any other human relationship..."**

Present-day obstetrical textbooks show fetuses on their covers, shrouded in the womb's silhouette, "a view in which the fetus is in the foreground and the woman's body has virtually disappeared from the picture," Armstrong noted.

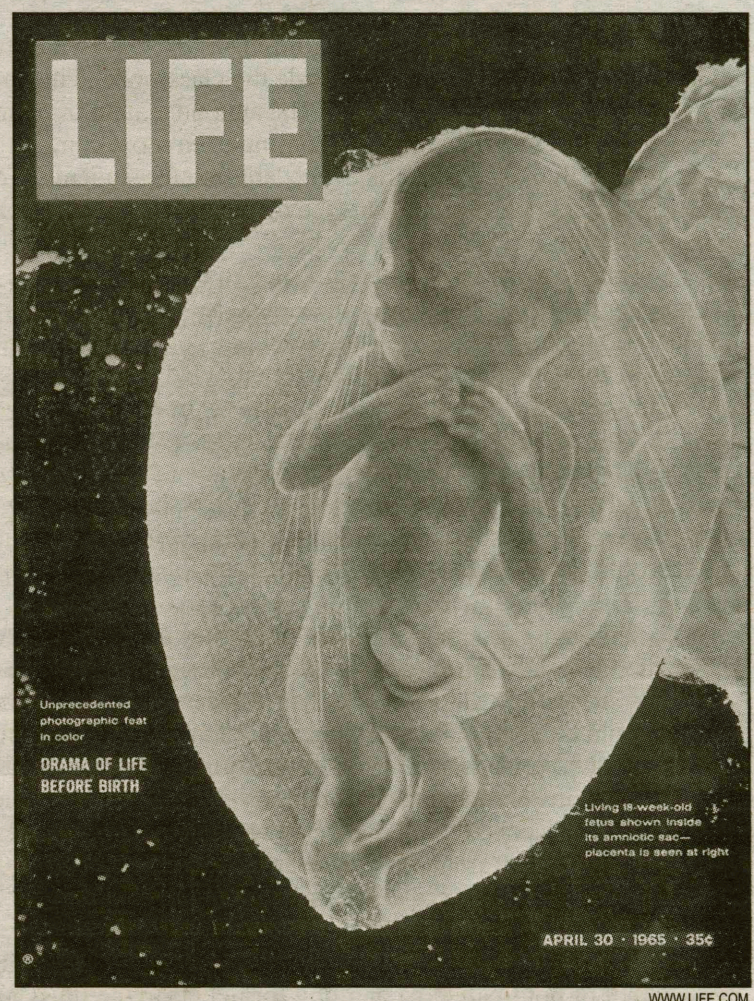
The language used to talk about the fetus helped engender this paradigm shift. By 1969, obstetricians were beginning to talk about the fetus as an "unborn patient," and by 1971, rhetoric dealing with "fetal rights" appeared. Cases of obstetrical ethics became common topics of discussion, often resulting from court-ordered Caesarian sections or fetal surgery.

In addition, advances in technology within the field of obstetrics changed the way a woman interacted with the fetus. In particular, the advent of the sonogram allowed expecting parents to see the fetus and, if they so desired, to determine its sex. Even 3D ultrasound services are now available in shopping malls, making the fetus seem more "real." Violent imagery provided by the pro-life movement aside, the availability of these pictures, coupled with the recognition that something —the woman's body —is missing from them, shapes Armstrong's argument that several factors have contributed to the changing status of fetal personhood.

Lastly, social constructs influence the precarious juggling of mother's and fetus's rights. Armstrong remarked that often, pregnant women feel pressured to act a certain way because others may implicitly assume the woman is irresponsible or ill equipped to handle the pregnancy.

"Far from being a threat, a pregnant woman is, in fact, a fetal lifeline," Armstrong said. "So the prevailing notion of the fetus as something that needs to be protected from the pregnant woman or from her behaviors is very detrimental not only to her health and well-being, but also to the fetal health and well-being."

Armstrong concluded the lecture by expanding on this point. "We would do well to remember that women, pregnant or not, are persons too."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DRAMA OF LIFE BEFORE BIRTH
Living 18-week-old fetus shown inside its amniotic sac—placenta is seen at right
APRIL 30 · 1965 · 35¢

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Images such as those appearing in the April 1965 issue of *Life* magazine raised public awareness, as well as confusion, regarding fetal development and personhood.

CORRECTION

In the February 3, 2011 issue of *The Spectator*, we failed to properly attribute a quote from Edmund A. LeFevre Professor of English Emeritus, John H. O'Neill in the article "College mourns passing of George Bahlke, Professor of English Emeritus." O'Neill said: "George was both a gentleman and a gentle man, a kind and thoughtful person who did unexpected favors for people. He was a painstaking and responsive teacher."

NESCAC NEWS

AMHERST · BATES · BOWDOIN · COLBY · CONNECTICUT COLLEGE · MIDDLEBURY · TRINITY · TUFTS · WESLEYAN · WILLIAMS

by Joshua Yates '14
News Writer

Wesleyan University

Kara Perez '11 is your typical college student who wants to make a statement on her campus, but she's doing it in a very atypical fashion. As part of Wesleyan's unique "student forums," where select students are given the chance to become the professor and teach fellow classmates about a subject of their choice, Perez's forum has become the hot new dining hall topic of conversation.

It's called "Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of Hip Hop." Perez had been creating the syllabus for the course since last spring, using numerous books and magazines such as *Rolling Stone* and *The Source* to develop a clear, structured curriculum. Her driving force: passion for hip hop she claims she has always had. "I've always loved hip hop [because] it's the best music out there quite frankly. It has a great rhythm and a great message," Perez told the *Wesleyan Argus*. Many students wanted to register for the course, but popularity can turn ugly, and it did when 42 students signed up for the 15 spots available. "It was so terrible to have to e-mail someone and say 'Listen, you've demonstrated an interest. I know that you're passionate about this, but you can't be in the class,'" Perez explained.

Frustration was soon followed by doubt as some questioned the usefulness of Caucasians, like Perez, studying hip hop and its culture. Perez defiantly told the *Argus*, "Whether you're black, white, purple or hot pink doesn't matter. The music speaks to you and…I just want to share this with people. So race be damned." Associate Professor of Dance Katja Kolico, who sponsors the course, defended Perez's intention of teaching hip hop to students, suggesting, "Hip hop as a cultural phenomena encompasses music, dance, poetry, language, and visual arts among many other things. I felt it was important to support this student-driven initiative."

Despite all the obstacles and controversy, Perez is actively teaching her students what she loves most. "I have wanted to do this for so long," Perez said, "It's been a year in the making. Now it's happening and I'm so excited that I can't even focus on it right now."

Amherst College

Amherst students recently decided to take a real and musical look into the world of marriage in the school's eighth annual Interterm musical production. The show is called *Company*, a 1970s musical, featuring music and lyrics written by Stephen Sondheim, which follows the lives of different married couples. Daniella Bassi '14, the "Art and Living" editor of the *Amherst Student*, observed that the characters' stories "still exist in contemporary society and were easy to relate to."

Bassi gave the show a raving review, particularly because of the depth of the different couples and their respective vignettes. "Sarah and Harry [are] an example of a constantly bickering and disagreeing couple that as a result fail to be united and supportive of each other in public, but the couple connects through these constant mini battles, finding love. Susan and Robert exemplify a romantically bonded, enamored couple though they are getting a divorce. Amy and Paul have cultural differences [since] he's Jewish and she's Christian, for which they are criticized by society, making them doubt their relationship. The characters were real; they were not rigid, stiff or forced in any way. They resonated with their issues and simultaneous love for one another and succeeded in convincing the audience that they were a tight-knit circle of old friends, living around each other and concerned for their unattached friend," wrote Bassi in the *Student*. What she loved most was the how the show ended: "Robert wishes for a wife after realizing that marriage is made of ups and downs, but ultimately grants one a partner to stick it out with in life…It was masterful, bringing us back to where we started, as if no time had passed, yet with myriad thoughts about the nature of relationships flickering in our minds." The entire campus became energized through love— and just in time for Valentine's Day.

Showing our commitment to the arts

As a liberal arts college, Hamilton strives to provide students with a wide variety of educational opportunities outside the classroom. This includes art performances in music, dance and the visual arts. The announcement of plans to build a new Arts Center indicates that the arts are becoming even more central to the Hamilton experience. Although most of the arts events are free for students, a number of them are saddled with a small charge. This fee discourages students from taking advantage of the opportunities the College provides.

This nominal fee is often attached to the performances of professional artists visiting the College, but it is also added to student events, including the choir's musical. Charging for these events clearly discourages attendance; free acoustic coffeehouses, for example, are much better attended than other concerts. Sports events, which are generally well-attended, are always free. The College even waives the fees at NCAA playoff events, which normally have a small price for tickets.

The musical's $3 entrance fee for students is a prime example of the current problem. The musical drew hundreds of guests, but how many more would have come were there no charge attached? Students work hard to put on these productions, and it would be nice for community members to show their support by filling Wellin Hall.

Although these prices are not high, they are still fees. As a liberal arts education that demands learning both inside and outside of the classroom, the College should be encouraging student attendance at performances. The school and its departments should be aware of the detrimental effects of nominal fees for these performances. Making these events accessible to students should be a priority for the College.

The onus of attendance, of course, does not depend solely on the College. Hamilton students need to recognize and take advantage of the opportunities available to them in these performances. These are performances, after all, that would be difficult to find at such low prices off the Hill.

Although these fees may be an attempt to recoup money on the part of the College and the hosting departments, fees can be one of the major factors when deciding whether or not to attend. Charging for tickets to the musical was needed to offset the cost of things like securing performances rights, librettos, sets and costumes. But should this money come directly from students in the form of ticket prices?

In light of the tens of millions of donated dollars being spent on a new arts center, we should ask why components of this investment require an admission fee for students. Alternatively, a $20 increase in the Student Activities fee each year would probably offset the total amount students contribute to performances in ticket prices. Regardless of how the problem is solved, we should work to remove the at-the-door cost of attending these performances. If the arts are important enough to the school to build a new arts center, then the school should also be willing to find a way to stop the "sticker shock" at the door of the performances themselves.

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

Nevertheless, *The Spectator* has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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FACE OFF: Does Hamilton allocate its money wisely?

Yes, past successes should instill future trust.

by Rachel Lieb '13
and Keith MacArtney '13
Opinion Editors

In order to remain a competitive liberal arts college, Hamilton needs to use its money to establish new facilities, while maintaining and improving old buildings. These costs are compounded by an endless number of operating costs associated with running a 1,300 acre campus in wintery central New York. According the President Stewart's 2009-10 Budget Summary, campus operating costs made up about 42 percent of the College's total budget.

With these heavy costs in mind, Hamilton has done an impressive job enhancing its already expansive campus facilities. In the last ten or so years, the College has financed a major makeover of its facilities, which is most evident in the following endeavours: the new Sadove Student Center and bookstore at Emerson Hall in 2010, a renovated Kirner-Johnson building in 2009, the new Science Center in 2007 and plans for the new Wellin Museum of Art in 2012, along with entirely new arts facilities including a new theater shortly after. The College invested over $150 million in its facilities over the past decade, according to college publications.

This impressive list does not even begin to touch upon the constant updates to our campus. Are we so quick to forget the seemingly daily e-mails from the College this past summer, updating us on the numerous renovations and projects to improve our already beautiful campus?

Hamilton receives a lot of donations from its often overly generous alumni and parents, specifically for new projects and endeavors. These new projects reflect the voice of the entire community, including the students.

Some of the budget allocations for student activities are often debated. For example, the benefits of having an outdoor ice rink are most often criticized by the student body. Often, organizations whose requests for funds are rejected by Student Assembly are most prone to questioning and criticizing Hamilton's budget allocations.

However, decisions made regarding the development of our campus are usually supported by the majority of the community. For one, there is no question that the new renovations and additions to our campus benefit the overall progression of our reputation as a prominent liberal arts college.

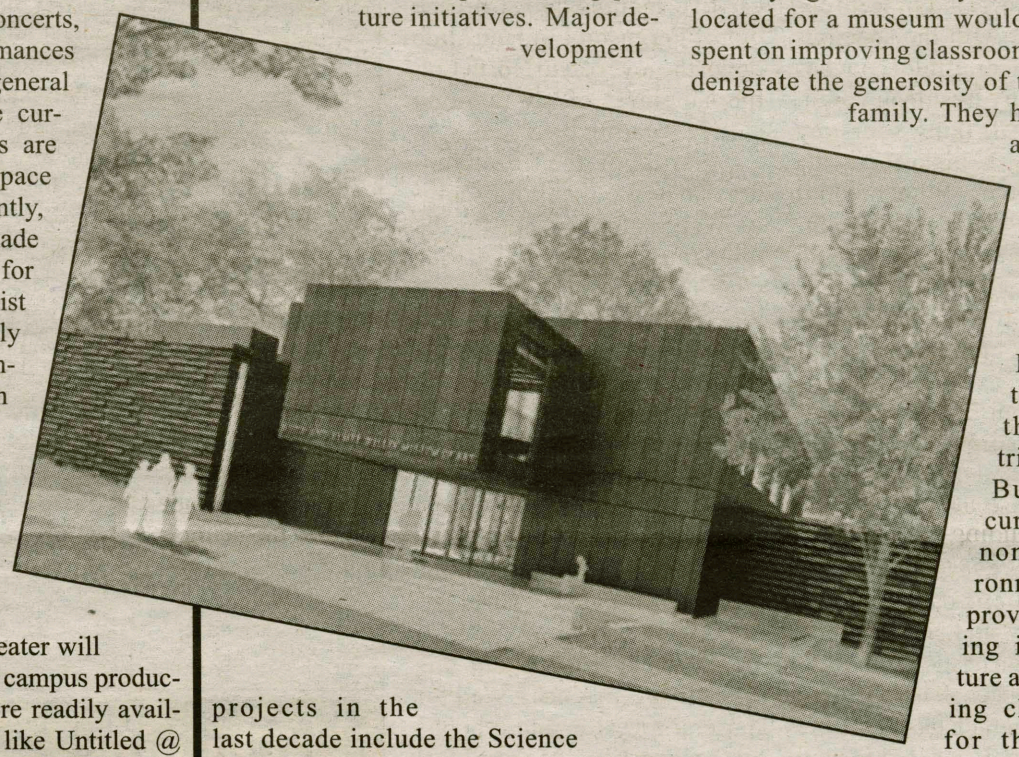
Danielle Brockmann '13 said, "The new center would provide a larger theater and a black box for students and guest performances which we do not currently have, making us on par with other liberal arts colleges."

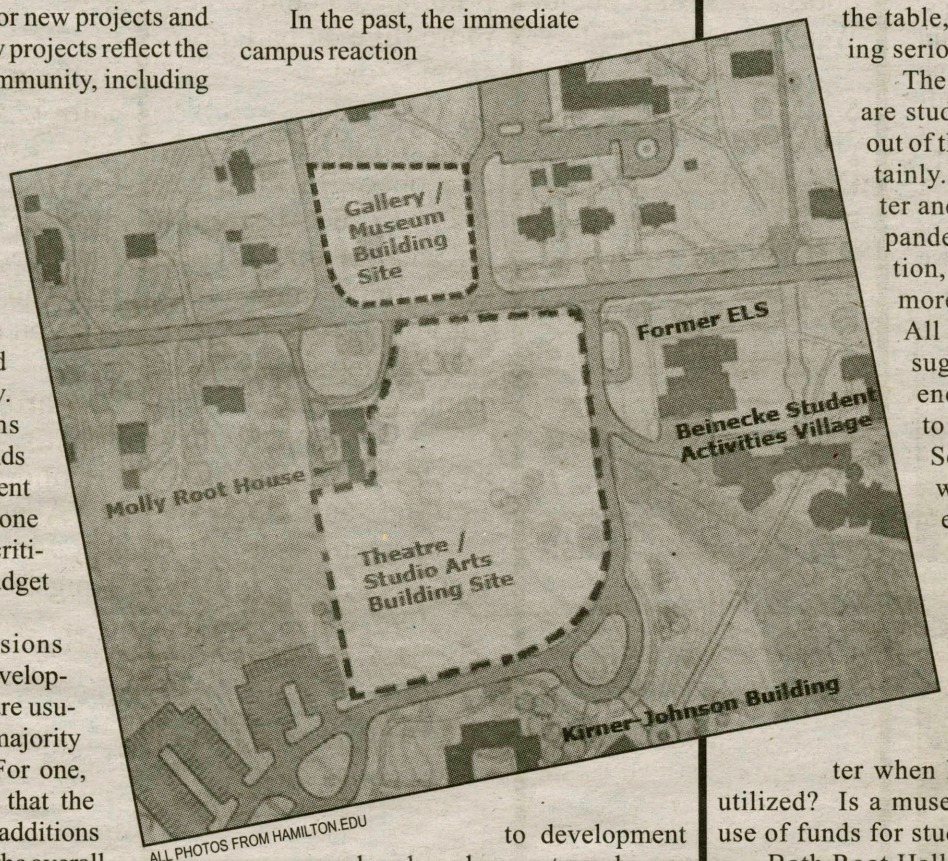
Since not everyone has a specific need for a new black box or a larger theater, the new arts facilities and museum have been called into question by non-arts members of our community.

Despite this belief, these decisions and projects are indeed intended for the benefit of everyone. With the new arts center, more concerts, productions and performances will be offered to the general Hamilton public. The current Hamilton facilities are generally lacking in space and availability. Currently, Wellin Hall is only made available to our campus for a very short and specific list of events. There are only a couple of a capella concerts allowed in Wellin per year.

The new facility will allow a cappella groups to perform in a larger venue, no longer forcing them to perform awkward Opus 1 concerts. The larger theater will seat more people for all campus productions, but it will be more readily available for use by groups like Untitled @ Large. With larger arts facilities, more students will be able to enroll in the arts classes which are some of the first classes to fill during registration. With the new museum along with more gallery space, the College will be able to display more student artwork.

In the past, the immediate campus reaction to development plans have been extremely varied. It makes sense that current decisions are called into question. However, considering that the final product of our development projects have been consistantly successful, we should put more trust into the decisions made by our college.





ALL PHOTOS FROM HAMILTON.EDU

No, we should think more critically about how we spend.

by Evan Klondar '11
Editorial Page Editor

Hamilton is a college that spends lots of money every year. There are obviously operating costs to running a college: professors need to be paid, lights need electricity, water needs to come out of the taps. Beyond that, though, is the money Hamilton spends on big-picture initiatives. Major development projects in the last decade include the Science Center expansion (over $50 million), the Kirner-Johnson renovation ($23 million) and the Sadove Student Center at Emerson Hall expansion (about $8 million). The planned Arts Center and Wellin Museum will cost $35 million.

When this much money is on the table, we should be asking serious questions.

The biggest question is: are students getting value out of these projects? Certainly. The Science Center and KJ were both expanded during construction, which allowed for more classroom space. All available accounts suggest that the science facilities prior to the creation of the Science Center were woefully outdated. KJ is certainly more useful (and more aesthetically pleasing) with the recent renovations. But do we really need a new student center when Beinecke is barely utilized? Is a museum really the best use of funds for students?

Both Root Hall and Benedict Hall are in desperate need of improvement. The classrooms are not up to par—especially when compared to the new facilities in the Science Center and KJ. But there is no one seriously lobbying for renovation. Why? Because neither building has a concentrated group of departments looking out for it. KJ has the humanities; the Science Center has the sciences. Root and Benedict are, in many ways, "caught in the middle." Root primarily serves the English department, while Benedict is spare space used by various departments around the College.

Saying that money currently allocated for a museum would be better spent on improving classrooms is not to denigrate the generosity of the Wellin family. They have made an enormous impact on students' experiences at Hamilton through their contributions. But in the current economic environment, improving existing infrastructure and preparing classrooms for the future seems a better use of money than constructing new buildings.

Ignoring buildings like Root and Benedict has serious consequences. KJ is filled to capacity most mornings, which makes lunch in McEwen a mad rush for tables. Despite the new layout, the line for food frequently stretches to the coffee and tea bar, while the line for entry into the dining hall could easily be confused with the line for Opus—it sometimes stretches far beyond the McEwen stairs. Alleviating this concentration of classes in KJ would result in a better spread of students around the campus, ending the lunchtime rush.

These are not the only questions we should be asking. We have entered a new financial age in which everything must be questioned. This is not to say that we must cut services. After questioning, we may realize that we do not need to change a thing. A core part of the Hamilton education, however, is to create critical thinkers.

So here are some critical questions: Is the athletic budget on campus valuable? How much investment should we be making in long-term projects? How much money should go to financial aid? Are professors' salaries too high? Are we being too thrifty (or too generous) with our endowment? Is the bureaucracy of the College efficient? We do not need the answers right now. But the community as a whole should be asking many more questions along these lines to make sure that the Hamilton community gets the most out of every dollar spent by the College.

The plight of parking in North (Pole) Lot:

A Rogers resident's dilemma

by Becca Mack '13
Opinion Contributor

Why do I live in Rogers? I mean, the wood paneling, private chef, beautiful views and fridge full of cookie dough aside, it is just a mansion. It is a beautiful mansion with bay windows, but still, just a mansion. How happy am I that I live there?

The answer might seem obvious, what with the spacious library and multiple couches untouched by freshman vomit, but one small thing sours my mood when I think about the palace I live in. What could it be, you ask? Is it the overabundance of M &M cookies fresh out of the oven? Au contraire, mon frère. It is the parking up the hill that bothers me.

I was excited when I learned about the new student parking situation. No assigned parking seemed like a great idea, especially since I have to drive the 40 miles up the hill from Rogers every day. On the coldest of arctic days, I shovel off my SUV and shiver in my car to the hits of the '80s while it heats up. Then, I drive slowly up the hill, which has made me uniquely qualified for a new uphill division of the Olympic bobsled team.

At the top of the hill, I breathe a sigh of relief, then open my eyes to avoid hitting the students walking from Ferguson who apparently have not figured out how to look both ways yet. But despite all this effort, my parking saga has only just begun.

I gird my loins as I tour the parking lots. Ferguson is always first, with its beautiful proximity. But of course, as I slide through the parking lot, all I see is cars, which look like they have not been driven since the Great Blizzard of 1888, covered in snow.

I guess it is all right, Fergusonians. Of course, you want to be able to see your car from your window on the off chance that someone from the crime-den of Clinton, New York wants that spare Patagonia fleece that you left in your car two months ago. I breeze out of Ferguson Lot, and slide down the icy road to North Lot, the happiness of my morning slowly wearing off.

North Lot, the frozen tundra that it is, is thankfully empty. Well, empty except for the igloos and Santa's village. (See what I did there? I insinuated that North Lot was so far away that it is in the North Pole. I am not bitter at all, I swear.) After parking next to Rudolph and the boys, I trudge up to campus, now several minutes late for my class in the far off stretches in Root Extension Lot, covered in snow from the snow plows and several stages into hypothermia.

So what to do about this sad daily occurrence? Well for starters, invest in audio books for the long drive. Mostly, I feel that the main solution is designated spots for Rogers drivers in some of the oft-full campus lots. Ferguson, Root, Dunham, any one of them would be nice to park in, so as to avoid wearing out yet another pair of Uggs.

Designated spots would make our plight just that much easier, so we do not need to suffer the far off tundra just to get to class or a meal on the weekends. So please, give us more spaces, do not hog the parking lot, and maybe, just maybe, we will share the cookie dough.

HAMILTON.EDU

Rogers Estate, located down the hill on North Road, beyond Ferguson and Eells residence halls, far from much-needed on-campus parking.

Letter to the editor

Re: A proposal for a radical challenge that I believe will significantly improve all aspects of Hamilton College

The challenge: Reduce Hamilton's tuition by ten thousand dollars over the next ten years. Radical. I know. But here's why and how I think you should seriously consider my proposal.

First, from 1997 to 2001 my parents spent approximately $121,540 for my sister to attend Hamilton. From 2003 to 2007, my parents spent approximately $162,635 for me to attend Hamilton. That's a shocking increase and it forces me to ask, is my Hamilton education was worth $41,095 more than my sisters? I struggle to justify answering that question in the affirmative.

Second, since 1997 Hamilton has tried to build and spend its way to the top while passing on increased tuition to its students. A necessary strategy for its time perhaps, but it is not an innovative or unique strategy. Spending and building was easy to do and justify because borrowing was cheap and everyone else was doing it. It's time to stop following our peers and to do something radical to improve Hamilton.

Third, recent economic history has taught us that consistently high price increases continually paid for with borrowed money (student loans and loans incurred by the college) is not a successful formula. True improvement requires a sustainable strategy.

Fourth, prospective students and their families will be increasingly cost-conscious in the future and will more frequently ask value-based questions like the one I asked above. When considering value in its simplest terms – bang for the buck – Hamilton does an incredible job focusing on "the bang," the education, but has not given equal attention to the equally important side of the value formula, "the buck." Radical tuition reduction addresses this weakness in Hamilton's focus.

Fifth, continuous tuition increases paralleled by increasingly "generous" financial aid and admissions policies are counterintuitive and send a mixed message to prospective students. Hamilton's financial aid program is necessarily generous because of the high cost of tuition.

Sixth and finally, Hamilton is in the perfect condition to launch this radical initiative because it has world class facilities, reputation, professors, students and rabidly loyal and generous alumni. Additionally, Hamilton is about to celebrate its Bicentennial and can draw from the Bicentennial's momentum to implement and accomplish this radical change before any of its peers can even begin. My proposal is radical and radical change is not easy. It will take big and small benefactors getting excited about having their names on scholarships rather than buildings – the same sort of excitement that made need-blind admissions possible. It will also take adopting a value-based decision making model and asking whether expenditures truly advance the educational mission and the value of the school before they are incurred. And if we look back at the building and spending spree, I know we could find a number of programs and shiny amenities that were added merely to keep up with the Joneses rather than truly improve the value of Hamilton's education.

Let us be bold about something other than buildings and how we provide opportunities to students. Let us seize a chance to radically improve the college that radically improved us.

Carissima!

Scott Iseman '07

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
FebFest: Four afternoons of school-sponsored booze? It's like Senior Week basic training! 8==D +({*}) = ☺ DU Valentine's Day party: Who will get struck with Cupid's "arrow" this year? Fed up with SA elections? Write in Toby Flenderson. Even Dunder-Mifflin has snack time.	Yearbook photos: Awkward poses with inappropriate touching. Felt more like a bad porn shoot to me. You know Joan is running out of BS when she refers to the "beautiful physical plant" in her semi-annual letter. Are you going to comment on our stunning sidewalks at commencement? KDO: So, are you guys anti-pink and white or just too secretive to care? You know what else is secretive? Stage 1 breast cancer!	Hamilton 2032: F*ck it, I'm not sending my kids here. Buffergrams: Just pay the extra $2 so no one has to hear "Love Me Tender." New McEwen Passports: Just like an Annex party, you wait in line for meat that you don't want. Howard Diner closes due to "circumstances beyond our control:" Did Angel finally realize that we're awful human beings?

by Danielle Mortorano '12, Biff Parker-Magyar '12, Greg Jordan '11 and Lesley Ryder '11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Valentine's Day Special Feature

by Claire Carusillo '13 and Emily Gerston '11
FEATURES EDITORS

Worth staying on the Hill for:

Serenading

Hamilton's best and only all-male a capella group, The Buffers, will offer their soulful stylings to students and faculty alike with their singing Buffergrams on Friday Feb. 11 from 6 a.m.– 5 p.m. The Buffers will sing any song in their repertoire to unsuspecting friends, colleagues, professors and significant others of those who purchase the Buffergram. "My favorite song to sing is 'Remix to Ignition' by R. Kelly," said Buffer Patrick Kennedy '13, "We get really into it." Among other songs, the Buffers can also be requested to sing "F*ck You," "Love Me Tender" and "Bills, Bills, Bills." Of the latter, Kennedy said, "But nobody ever really picks that song. That's an awful song to sing to someone on Valentine's Day." Buffergrams can be purchased through Thursday at 2 pm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUFFERS

Ice skating

Forget lace on your homemade cards and underthings—the only laces that matter this Valentine's Day are the ones on your ice skates. Hamilton's very own outdoor ice rink is officially open, located at the Babbitt Pavilion. The rink, available to members of the Hamilton community with Hill Cards, is open during all daylight hours. Rink privileges come with great responsibility: students must skate at their own risk, wear helmets if they are playing hockey and shovel in the case of snow. Spandex optional but encouraged.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INSIDEVOICE.COM

Indulging

Chocolate is a perennial V-day favorite, and for good reason. But instead of raiding the bookstore and spending your hard-earned laundry money on run-of-the-mill chocolates, give one of next week's special chocolate events a shot.

For the gourmets, check out the FebFest chocolate tasting with Christian A. Johnson Professor of Biology Ernest Williams, featuring a wide variety of chocolate-y deliciousness and an informational discussion. It's a good way to sample lots of different types of chocolate and treats without going the traditional candy sampler route. It'll set you back $5 for a FebFest button (required for participation), but it's worth it for the good food, good info and good company.

Not willing to part with the $5? Your date may not appreciate the tight strings on your wallet, but you can still impress him/her with something sweet without straying from the confines of your meal plan. On Monday, Feb. 14, Bon Appétit is introducing Cordillera Chocolate, a new, high-end organic chocolate, to its dining halls. We highly recommend the chocolate oatmeal bars. Snag some at lunch and feast on your chocolate loot at an afternoon indoor picnic with your date (or by yourself!).

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUESLANT.COM

Worth getting off the Hill for:

Eating

Michael's Fine Food & Spirits (7672 State Rte 20, Waterville) is a little over-priced for a college student, but for Valentine's Day, the most sacred and non-fictional of all holidays, it's just right. Michael's dabbles in upstate New York fare, like chicken rigatoni and greens, but the restaurant really shines with its inventive dishes, like tomato cheese s'mores and Provencal lamb of rack. In the case that you spent all your money buying gifts for your significant other, wait until Feb. 15 for Michael's Tuesday night specials. On Tuesdays, Michael's offers a pasta dinner for two and a bottle of wine for only $29.95. If your mate complains about you being one day late for love, woo her/him with dessert.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL'S

Crafting

Create semi-precious memories with your betrothed this Valentine's Day by working with metals and beaded jewelry. EmMi Beads (4 West Park Row), Clinton's family-owned bead shop, is offering a Sweetheart Set class on Saturday Feb. 12, in which participants craft heart-shaped pendants and matching coil earring sets using heavy gauge copper wire. EmMi Beads will participate in Clinton's second annual Sweetheart Stroll, a town fair and prize competition.

EMMI BEADS

Skiing

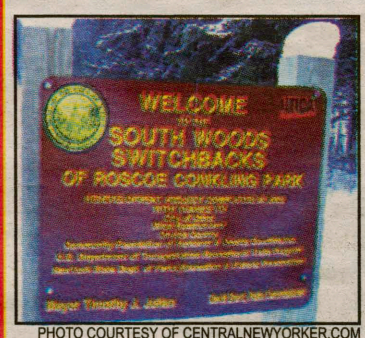


PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRALNEWYORKER.COM

Let's get physical! You don't need peaks to get to the next level with your lover when you go cross country skiing. Instead, opt for rolling hills and sweeping views at Utica's South Roscoe Conkling Park (Valley View Drive and Memorial Parkway). The city of Utica grooms the cross country ski trails around the Valley View golf course. The park offers both beginner and advanced trails. Trails are free and equipment rentals are available. So bundle up on the trails and cozy up later in front of a fire.

HEAG's corner:

Getting it on with the Green Girls

by Adi Fracchia '14
and Hailey Hayman '14
FEATURES CONTRIBUTORS

Hey, hey, hey! Want to add a little bit more green to your daily grind? Want to impress that groovy eco-freak? Want to show some HEAG pride? Here are a few ideas to help spread the love and stop the waste.

Food & Drink

• Ice cream on the go doesn't feel so good when the winter's breeze hits a brain freeze. Instead of using the compostable coffee cups and plastic spoons that are nearby, use a bowl and metal spoon; you'll even burn a few extra calories from walking around the bend. Better yet, reuse your drinking glass and put your ice cream in there. You'll be sure to hydrate by finishing your drink before filling the glass with ice cream. Also, you'll save water by not using another dish.

• If you're sitting down, go around the bend and grab a coffee mug instead of a compostable cup. This revised morning ritual could save a few hundred cups!

• Recycle Opus cups. Soon you'll be able to compost Commons cups. Compost is on its way and will be here to stay, so look forward to some hands-on green grub.

• Personalize your party time with a reusable glass cup, mug, Klean Kanteen or just a rockin' solo cup with your name on it – you'll never lose your beer again!

• Collect your empty cans and recycle them during your next beer run. A party's worth of cans could very well land you enough cash for another 30 rack. Now that's karma.

• Mice can't stand peppermint. If the food in your room is attracting unwanted friends, buy some peppermint oil instead of rat poison and douse a few cotton balls. It'll clean up your air and put your mind at ease.

• For the Sunday scrub, mix 1/8 cup of soap, 1/4 cup of white vinegar from Commons and a gallon of warm water. The solution will work on any floor and clean any mess. Just check to make sure the manufacturer of your floor doesn't warn off mild detergents.

Staff Profile: Marge Petteys

HAMILTON ALUMNI REVIEW ONLINE

by Marge Petteys
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

This is part of a series on the staff and employees of Hamilton College. This series is an attempt to foster communication between faculty, staff, employees and students to create a more cohesive Hamilton community.

Why did you start working at Hamilton? How long have you worked here for?

I've worked here for 18 years. My children were all grown and I wanted to get out and socialize with people. I enjoy meeting new and interesting folks. And what better place than on a college campus?

Have you held any other jobs at Hamilton? If so, what?

No. I stayed home and raised my family. That was a job! To me, that was an accomplishment. This was my first job! This was my first paycheck!

What is your favorite thing about working at Hamilton?

Seeing all of the students every day. When the kids greet me in the morning and tell me to have a good day, I love it. I love my kids, you have no idea.

What is your biggest pet peeve about working here?

When the students don't have their IDs. And my pet peeve is the newspapers! Not *The Spectator*, but *The New York Times*. There's too many of them on the tables!

What can Hamilton community members do to make your day happy?

Coming in the door with a smile and a hug is all you have to do! I also enjoy the students telling me where they've traveled.

What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

History. Everyone is so caught with with "today." I found that History was very interesting to me because it documents where we've been.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My husband and I have a camp at Belvedere Lake. We go to dances and enjoy our friends there at campfires. It is like a second family.

What is your favorite Hamilton College tradition? Why?

The Winter Fest. Because I enjoy watching the fireworks falling into the beautiful crisp white snow and hearing the students enjoying themselves.

If you could go back in time to when you were the age of an average Hamilton student, what advice would you give yourself?

I would say, "Study hard today," so I wouldn't have to work hard tomorrow.

What is your "tip of the day?"

Be good and be safe. Also, stop and smell the roses. You only need to stop and smell one and you will know.

If you could be a professor for a day and teach any class about absolutely anything in the world, what would you teach?

I would like to teach "How To Give Hugs." Not itty bitty ones. Bear ones!

What is your favorite memory of all time at Hamilton?

Attending graduations and seeing alumni. It's a day full of "There's Marge!"

HAMILTON COLLEGE LIBRARY

FROM WHERE I SIT

HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMINA SIBTAIN '11

by Amina Sibtain '11
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

Amina Sibtain is a Hamilton senior from Pakistan.

The first time I saw the sign for Hamilton College, I started crying. They were not tears of joy, but more of a 'What the hell am I doing here?' nature. Back then I was so scared of what the next four years had in store for me, but today I sit here looking back at my time, and wish I could go back and do it all over again.

If you had asked me four years ago whether I was going to change as a person during my time at Hamilton, my answer would have been "Absolutely not." Today, I wouldn't recognize the freshman version of myself if I were to meet her. Hamilton has allowed me to grow not only academically, but personally as well. In four months, when I graduate, I will walk out a stronger, more well-rounded and compassionate – I like to also think funnier – person.

From where I sit, Hamilton gave me the opportunity to find myself and see the world through a completely different lens. On a small scale, I ate my first peanut butter and jelly sandwich in Commons, went sledding for the first time on the football field with my friends, raced rolling chairs in KJ at 2 a.m. and did my best Michael Jackson dance impersonation while slipping on black ice in front of Milbank.

I've met some of the nicest and some of the craziest people at Hamilton (you know who you are). They've been there for me through everything: from feeding me when I was too stressed during finals to making hospital runs with me whenever I had an asthma attack (it happened more than you would expect). From barging into my room at 7 a.m. to wake me up for Class and Charter Day to making sure I made it to my 9 a.m. finals, my friends helped me forget how far away I was from Pakistan and made Hamilton my second home.

Hamilton produced relationships and memories that I would not exchange for anything in life. I made my fair share of mistakes during my four years at Hamilton, but the way that I dealt with them made me realize how much I have grown during this experience.

It's hard to imagine that I will not be returning to the Hill in August – thinking about it gives me goosebumps. However, as scary as graduation might be, I know Hamilton has prepared me well. Someone once said that we are all like a box of crayons, and while most of us are eight color boxes, everyone is looking for a 64 color box. At Hamilton, I found my 64 color box of crayons.

From Where I Sit ***is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student and are interested in contributing a column, contact Barbara Britt-Hysell (bbritthy@hamilton.edu)***

FebFest 2011: week at a glance

Saturday, Feb. 12

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sangertown "LOVES" college students
Visit the mall today with your Hill Card to receive special discounts at the following retailers: Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Aeropostale, Aerie, AT&T, Cajun Café, Charlotte Russe, Chicken Now, Cool Nails, Dick's Sporting Goods, Fratelli's Café, Friendly's, F.Y.E. Music, JC Penney, Kirkland's, Payless Shoes, Star Accessories, Scentsations Perfumes, Sicilian Delight, Subway and Target.
http://www.sangertown.com/

2 p.m.
WinterFest at the Glen House Sponsored by HOC
Come celebrate the beginning of FebFest with an outdoor extravaganza in the snow. Then warm yourself up by the bonfire with banana boats and hot chocolate.

Sunday, Feb. 13

3 p.m.
A cappella concert @ the Barn featuring: Special K, The Hamiltones, and Tumbling After

Monday, Feb. 14

12 p.m.
Hot cocoa sales at KJ Atrium sponsored by the volleyball team

4:30 p.m.
Chocolate Tasting at Sadove first floor with Professor Ernest Williams
Come celebrate Valentine's Day the right way, with lots of chocolate! Enjoy decadent and delectable treats while Professor Ernest Williams leads a discussion about everyone's favorite guilty pleasure.

5 p.m.
Wine tasting at the Little Pub with Professor John O'Neal
Tasting and discussion led by Professor O'Neal. Open to students 21 and older. Prior registration required.

6:30 p.m
Illuminated Glen walk at the Glen House
Grab a friend or special someone and head to the Glen House to enjoy a mystical adventure through the woods.

7 p.m.
Vagina Monologues at the Barn sponsored by the Womyn's Center
Tickets: $5 / T-Shirts $10 (Buy a t-shirt and get a ticket free!) All proceeds will go to the YWCA and Planned Parenthood Utica

Tuesday, Feb. 15

All day on-campus snowman / snow sculpture contest
We have so much snow! Be creative! Do something with it! Prizes for the best classic, the most creative and the biggest.

12 p.m.
Hot cocoa sales at KJ Commons sponsored by Gamma Xi

4:30 p.m.
beer tasting at the Little Pub
Come enjoy seasonal beers, courtesy of Omegang Brewery. Open to students 21 and over. Prior registration required.

7 p.m.
Pizza Wars at the Tolles Pavilion Sponsored by HALT
Who has the best pizza? We're determined to find out! Come sample pizza from all our local joints and vote on which one you think is the best.

8 - 10 p.m.
Trivia Night at the Little Pub
F**K Valentine's day. Join us for Trivia and some f*cking prizes.

8:30 - 11 p.m.
Figure Skating Exhibition and Free Skate at the Sage Rink

10 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Late Night Breakfast at Commons
Got the midnight munchies? Why wait 'til morning? Come enjoy the pancake bar and catch some extra z's in the a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

12 p.m.
Hot cocoa sales at KJ Atrium sponsored by the curling team

2 p.m.
Broomball at the Babbitt Pavilion Outdoor Skating Rink Sponsored by GNAR
Up for a little friendly competition on the ice? No skates needed.

4:30 p.m.
Wine tasting at the Little Pub w/ Professor Steve Yao
Tasting and discussion led by Professor Yao. Open to students 21 and older. Prior registration required.

7 p.m.
Banff Film Festival at KJ Auditorium
The Annual Banff Film Festival. Approximately 2.5 hours of the best films about mountains and mountain culture. Tickets: $8 for students.

8:30 p.m.
Mr. Hamilton Contest at the Tolles Pavilion
Sponsored by One Heart with Africa. Who will be crowned King of the Hill? Come see the men of Hamilton strut their stuff on the runway. All proceeds benefit One Heart with Africa. $2 Admission without Button.

Thursday, Feb. 17

12 p.m.
Hot Cocoa Sales at KJ Atrium sponsored by One Heart with Africa

4:30 p.m.
Beer Tasting at the Little Pub
Come enjoy seasonal beers, courtesy of the illustrious Saranac Brewery. Open to students 21 and over. Prior registration required.

8 p.m.
FebFest and CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse Presents…
Justin Nozuka and Melissa Polinar at the Barn Doors: 7 p.m. Free Opus & cookies!

Friday, Feb. 18

2 p.m.
Sledding race at Lower Turf Field sponsored by GNAR BYOS. Bring Your Own Sled.

7:30 p.m.
Fireworks at Royce Baseball Field
A fantastic display provided by Pyrotecnico of Auburn NY (315) 252-0712. Sponsored by Student Activities.

9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
FebFest and CAB Special Events Presents…. GLOW RACING! at the Tolles Pavilion
Glow in the dark light show + human powered go karts = GLOW RACING!
http://www.bobbyk.com/glow-racing/

Saturday, Feb. 19

1 p.m.
Chili Cookoff at the Little Pub Sponsored by Student Activities
Are you Hamilton's top chef? Enter the Annual Chili Cookoff to find out. Email lmagnare@hamilton.edu to participate. Not a cook but still like chili? Stop by to sample and vote for your favorite recipe.

1 p.m.
Scavenger Hunt
Check your daily e-mails for more information!

3 - 6 p.m.
HAVOC Dodgeball tournament at Alumni Gym
Prior registration required. Questions: email dlashley@hamilton.edu

Feb Fest DEALS!

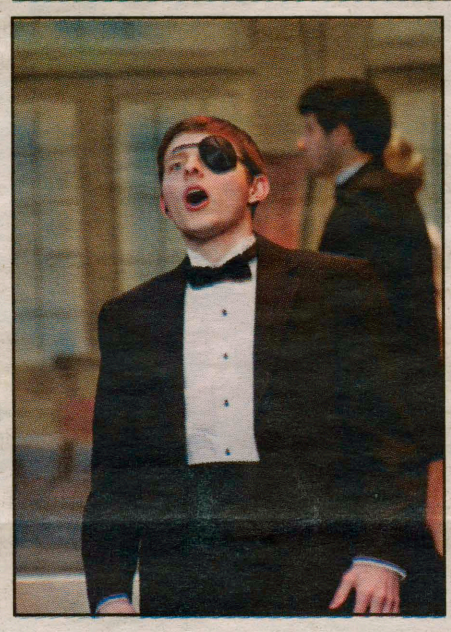
….from the Bookstore!
40% off winter hats, scarves, mittens, rain boots, and boot liners for ALL FebFest button holders! Monday the 14th will feature mylar heart balloons and other V-day related items for the holiday! All PINK clothing will be 25% off all day. Button holders will receive 35% off any PINK clothing.

…from Euphoria Smoothies!
10% off all smoothies during FebFest to all those wearing a button. Free smoothie samples during the chocolate tasting on Monday the 14th.

Special Thanks to:
Liz Curry & Lauren Vitale - Artwork by Kyle Rogowski

GRAND HOTEL

The Hamilton College Choir manages a spirited, but lackluster performance.



by Emily Winters '14
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

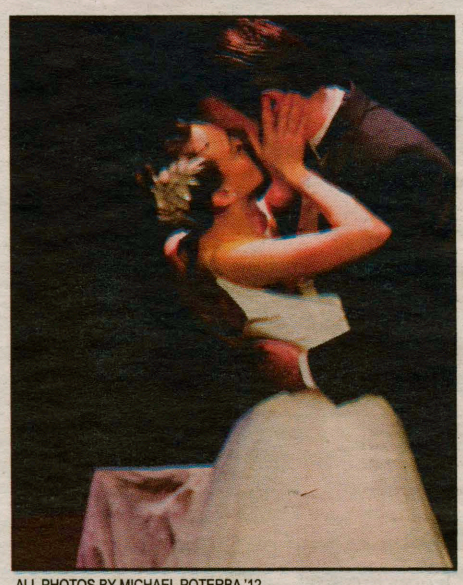
A bustling, luxurious hotel filled with patrons enjoying the life of the roaring '20s. This past weekend, the Hamilton College Choir, under the direction of G. Roberts Kolb, showed that this "Life can be grand" at their performance of the musical Grand Hotel!

Based off of Vicki Baum's novel of the same title, Grand Hotel was first performed on Broadway in 1989 and was subsequently nominated for 12 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The show tells the tale of the intertwining lives of the guests at the Grand Hotel in Berlin, Germany, including an attractive Baron, a typist aspiring to star in Hollywood, a dying bookkeeper and a fading prima ballerina. Dreams, romance and deadly deeds bring them together and alter their lives forever during their transient stay at this opulent lodging.

The entire cast of *Grand Hotel* embodied the spirit of the 1920s with their vocal talent, showcased by the exquisite melodies in full company numbers such as "Grand Parade" and "We'll Take a Glass Together." However, the cast was lackluster in energy when providing backup for the leads. There were minimal non-scripted interactions, which led much of the cast to be standing on stage without any apparent motive.

As Baron Felix Von Gaigern, Nathaniel Taylor '11 portrayed his character passionately, falling in love at first sight but ultimately arriving at a chilling end. Opposite Taylor as the once superstar prima ballerina Elizaveta Grushinskaya, Alison McLaughlin '11 and her superior acting skills shined as she precisely depicted her grandiose character.

Michael Breslin '13 and Julia Wilber '11 also gave stunning performances as the dying yet optimistic bookkeeper Otto Kringelein and the saucy typist Flaemmchen, respectively. Breslin's expressive hopefulness was paired with his wonderful voice while Wilber's aspiring attitude complemented her energized dance moves, especially exemplified in the duo's number "Who Couldn't Dance With You."



ALL PHOTOS BY MICHAEL POTERBA '12

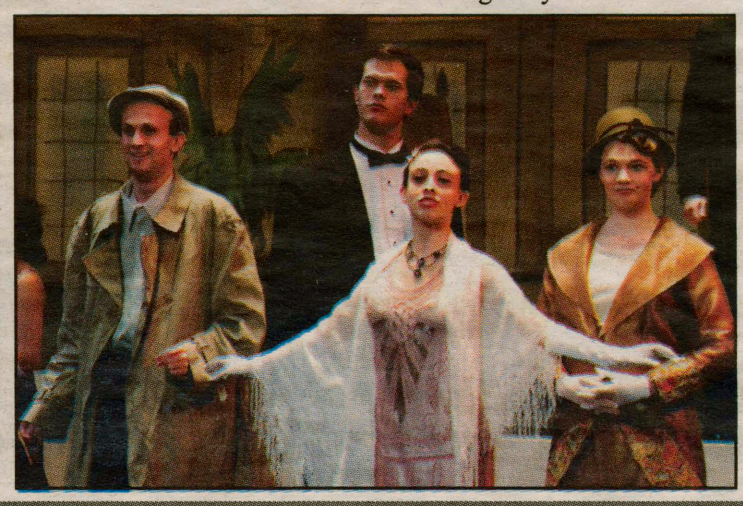
The technical aspects of the show helped transport the audience to life in a lavish hotel. The set was very minimal with a backdrop depicting a deluxe lobby. The costumes, managed by Nicole Schilder '11 and Andres Matlock '11, were period appropriate. Doubling as the stage crew, the cast members diligently moved the set pieces and kept the show moving steadily. The orchestra, however, was out of tune for the majority of the show and the sound also had some issues, which distracted from the performance.

The musical is an exciting event for the choir every year. Amanda Berman '13, an ensemble member, said that doing the musical is "something different [and] a break from the choral repertoire we do the rest of the year. The rest of the year, you only got to know people who sat around you in choir, but here you can interact with everyone."

Although unusual for the choir, it allows the members to explore other genres of musical performance. Tom Williams '11, who played the gangster Josef Schilinger, remarked, "I originally had some reservations about *Grand Hotel* because it's very strange from the choir's perspective but…it was a lot of fun."

While it might have been an enjoyable experience for some, the cast was overall lacking in acting skills. Some of the performers' expressions were forced and inconsistent, which led to some confusion about what was happening onstage and the motivations of the characters. The growth of the characters was mainly static compared the dramatic ending. Only a few characters seemed changed by their experiences in the Grand Hotel.

The audience's reactions to the musical were mixed. Kelly Jenkins '14 thought that "the romance between the Baron and Elizaveta was tear jerking. The performance was slow at first, but once it picked up with the romance, it was exciting and emotional." However, others were displeased. Marla Marquez '14 felt that, "The performance was not my speed. It was not as exhilarating as I thought it would be and I felt that it was just okay."



While leaving the hotel, Otto Kringelein states, "You see… life is everywhere." With that, the cast of *Grand Hotel* closed out another Hamilton College Choir musical. The obvious vocal dedication of the Choir was showcased, but the production was missing the true motivation and inspiration that would have provided for a fine performance.

Wellin hosts a "national treasure"

by Heather Krieger '14
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTRIBUTOR

The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company has been called a "national treasure" by *Variety* and has been widely celebrated for the musicality, expressiveness and sophistication of Lubovitch's dances.

This Friday, Feb. 11, Hamilton will host the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company at 8 p.m. in Wellin Hall. The company has performed in more than 30 countries as well as all over the United States and is regarded as one of the premier modern dance companies in the world. Lubovitch founded the company in 1968, and has been credited by *The New York Times* as "one of the 10 best choreographers in the world." He trained under multiple dance legends, including Jose Limon and Martha Graham, and over the course of his career has choreographed over 100 dances. In addition to his dance company, Lubovitch has choreographed multiple award-winning Broadway shows and composed ice skating routines for Olympic gold medalist ice skaters.

DANCINGPERFECTLYFREE.COM

The Lars Lubovitch Dance Company will perform this Friday, Feb. 11.

Lubovitch's company, based in New York City, teaches and performs for people of all ages and backgrounds in order to increase the general public appreciation and awareness of dance. The performance this Friday is titled "Jazz Trilogy" and will feature new dances as well as a few signature ones, including "Nature Boy," set to jazz musician Kurt Elling's music, a jazz-inspired dance "Elemental Brubeck" and a new dance performed to John Coltrane's rendition of "My Favorite Things."

This performance is sponsored in part by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's American Masterpieces: *American Muse/American Moves* tour. This organization highlights nationally-based dance companies that use classic American music for their dances – from Broadway and jazz music to spirituals and blues.

Friday's event has a long list of sponsors, including the Mohawk Valley Dance Partnership, a tripartite group including Hamilton College, the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institiute, and the Central New York Community Arts Council Arts in Education Institute, whose goal is the expansion of dance events and dance awarness in central New York. The New York State DanceForce, an association of choreographers, dancers and supporters in New York, is also sponsoring this event.

Tickets for this event at $20 for adults, $15 for senior citizens and $5 for students. For more information about this event, or to order tickets, call the box office at 859-4331 or visit www.hamiltonpa.org.

Open Mic: student group is a success in Sadove Student Center

by Taylor Coe '13
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Among other visions, the Open Mic event on Wednesday, Feb. 2 may be seen as a community-building exercise. Students would take the stage and play, and other students would applaud, as much out of admiration as out of solidarity—a kind of kinship divined from empathy. So although Pete Oliver '12 emceed the event, the narrative of the night chiefly emerged from the performers. The performers' chatter revealed everything; some of them sounded like seasoned stage veterans, while others helplessly inflected their voice with nervousness.

The Open Mic event at Hamilton is the brainchild of Sean Ryan '11 and Lauren Peters-Collaer '11. The inspiration for Open Mic visited them while they were studying abroad—Lauren in Dublin, Ireland, and Sean in York, England. "The reason it occurred to me was because there were so many open mics in Dublin," related Peters-Collaer. The absence of any group on campus to facilitate similar events suddenly seemed like a glaring omission. When Ryan spent Spring Break with Peters-Collaer in Dublin, they discussed the formation of a club upon their return to the Hill.

Although there have only been three events, Open Mic has already established itself as a marked social group on campus. Not only were there dozens of stalwarts last Wednesday night, who stayed through until the end, but also there were the passersby, those students who were going in and out of the Sadove Student Center, but who stopped for a moment or two. For Ryan and Peters-Collaer, the growth of the group has been simple because, as Ryan notes, "the effort is dispersed to the whole campus" and "depends on people coming out [to Open Mic]."

It might seem odd to offer any criticism on the Open Mic night—given the all-embracing, communal nature of the event—but there were certain flaws in its design that it would be remiss to overlook. The choice of the Sadove Student Center as the locale, for instance, presents a curious dilemma: while a venue like the Fillius Events Barn (where Ryan and Peters-Collaer held the two Open Mic nights last semester) offers more space than Sadove, it simultaneously excludes the unknowing passersby, whom Sadove, with its campus centrality, has an easier time roping in. More space might have been a boon to the event; for at least part of the night, the audience was standing room only. But then again, it's hard to say if that portion of the audience would have found their way to a more obscure locale at all.

"It might seem odd to offer any criticism on the Open Mic night—given the all-embracing, communal nature of the event—but there were certain flaws in its design that it would be remiss to overlook."

Beyond location, the only logistical problem with the event was the cut and dried procedure of musical act after musical act. While last semester's Open Mic nights included poetry readings, spoken word performances and even long-form jokes, the third Open Mic night had a one-track mind. Although performers went from keyboard to guitar to banjo to a cappella, each act based itself around music. Part of an Open Mic's appeal is the spontaneity and genre-evasion that comes with shows like the first two nights.

But that criticism falls not on the event's organizers, but rather on the student body itself; as Ryan pointed out, the Open Mic events are wonderful because they disperse the effort to everyone, but at the same time, that leaves everything dependent on the students' whim.

Although both Ryan and Peters-Collaer will graduate this spring, they have plans to extend Open Mic night into the future. They have already found underclassmen ready to continue the group next year and also plan to launch a website for the group. Ryan has already begun to record the performances—on video as well as audio. "It will be more fun if you know your performance is going to be archived somewhere forever," said Ryan.

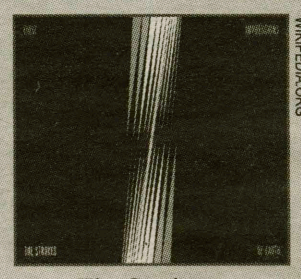
WHCL

The Siren:
Tuesday, 9-10 p.m.

Lizzy Huebner
Elaheh Nozari
Amanda Thorman
Eme Yordan

The Siren is an eclectic music talk show inspired by Hot 97, FDR's fireside chats and All Things Considered. WHCL's newest beat droppers/talking heads cram Destiny's Child hits, updates on the Middle East and the latest celebrity gossip into one hour of PSA-free radio. You might even hear some dubstep!

Record Picks from The Siren:



WIKIPEDIA.ORG

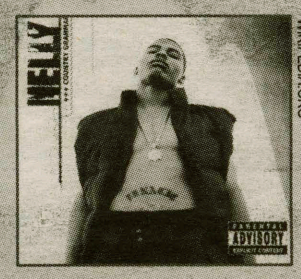
The Strokes - *First Impressions of Earth*

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Nicki Minaj - *Pink Friday*

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Bruce Springsteen - *Live at Hammersmith Odeon '75*



WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Nelly - *Country Grammar*

WHCL Weekly Chart

1. Destroyer - *Kaputt*
2. The Decemberists - *The King Is Dead*
3. The Go! Team - *Rolling Blackouts*
4. Darwin Deez - *Darwin Deez*
5. Smith Westerns - *Dye It Blonde*
6. The Black Keys - *Brothers*
7. Avey Tare - *Down There*
8. Cloud Nothings - *Cloud Nothings*

Visiting painter encourages art students

by Hannah Grace O'Connell '14
Arts & Entertainment Editor

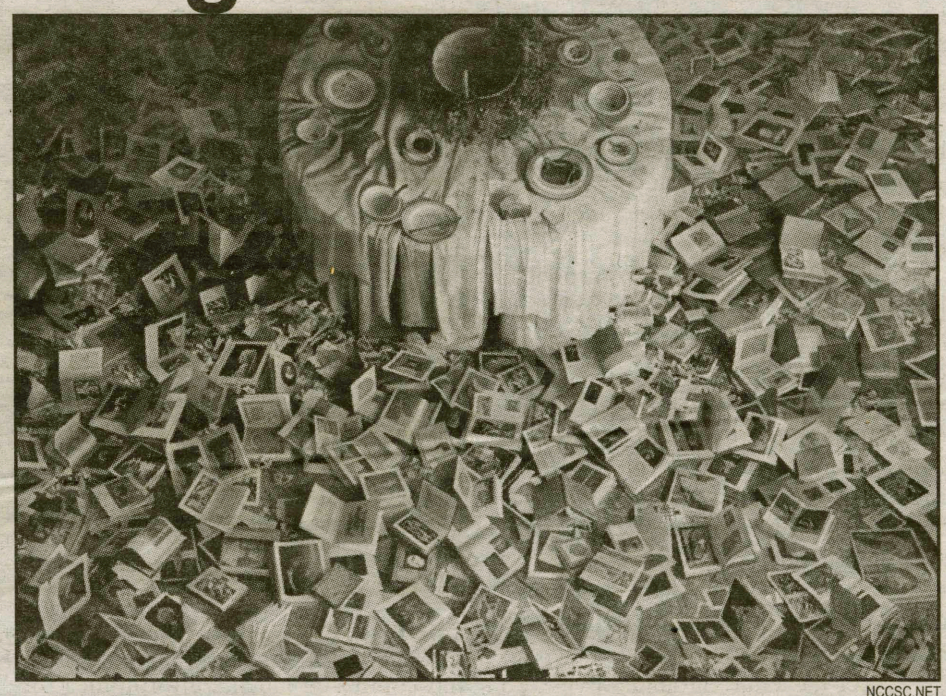
Jolting everyday surrealism and vast emotional narrations merely brush the surface of the giant canvases featured by artist Vincent Desiderio, who spoke at Hamilton on Wednesday, Feb. 9. His lecture revealed an artist knowledgeable in western art history, philosophical in his painting techniques and dedicated to the integrity of modern art.

Desiderio's visit is part of a series that brings some of the most renowned current artists in the world to Hamilton. His presentation consisted of a short talk followed by a slideshow in which he showed a variety of paintings from different stages in his artistic development. The artwork progressed from early experiments with tar as a medium to his work with triptychs (the sets of three paintings which comprise a good deal of his art). Well-versed in art history, Desiderio's talk compared and discussed famous artists from throughout history, weaving in expansive knowledge of technique. Even more interesting, however, were his eloquent interpretations of famous works of art and explanations of personal methods.

The 2010 painting "Study for Wedding Dress" is one of Desiderio's recent works.

In terms of his artistic process, Desiderio begins each painting visualizing an "abstract conception of movement across the canvas." One philosophy that he stressed repeatedly was the idea of technical rather than dramatic narrative. A dramatic narrative can reason about a painting's direct action and symbols. Technical narrative, on the other hand, is a much more complex sensation and experience in which "reason is compelled to stare." In his early work, Desiderio stressed the visual arguments of his paintings; he now works to "embody the subject in the technical narrative."

For an artist so thoughtful about artistic technique, Desiderio is refreshingly lighthearted about his own artwork. During his slideshow, he laughed at some of his art, called several paintings "no big deal," and jokingly described how his parents posed dead in their living room for a painting. For others paintings, he explained the background or motivation (particularly moving were the ones inspired by his son's illness at age four). For a few particularly striking pictures, his brief silence was enough.



NCCSC.NET

Desiderio's 2003 painting "Cockaigne" took ten years to complete.

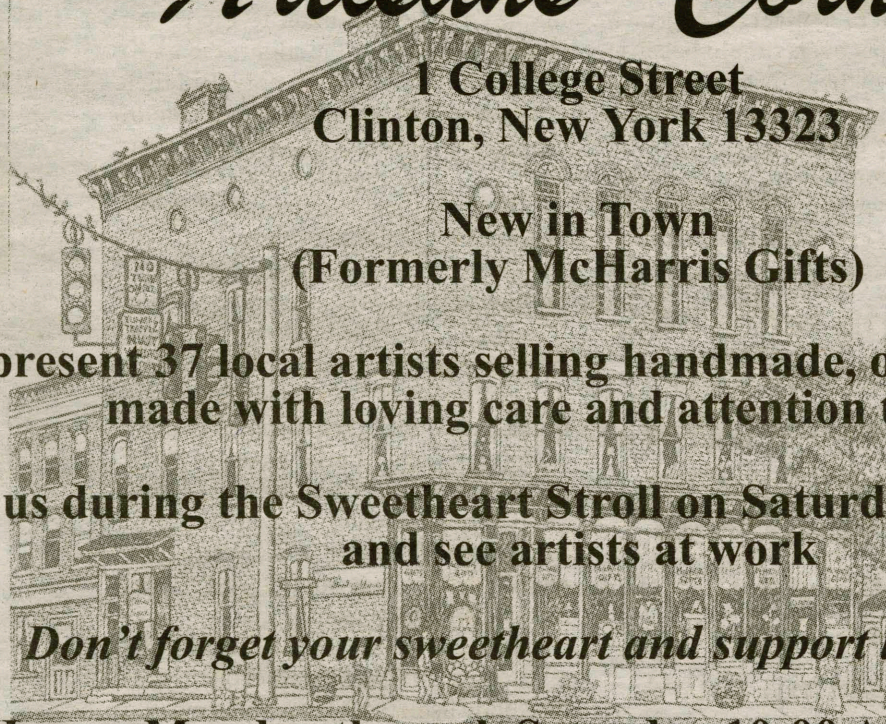
Desiderio has recently begun to put his knowledge of art history to a more public use, lecturing on "The Artist as Fugitive." This concept spans history from the guilds of medieval Europe to the modern "carnival of a ridiculous sham struggle for power" between artists, critics and curators. Desiderio believes that artists are continually changing the code so as to escape the materialistic confines of the critics and the buying public. Anyone familiar with the current art world scene, which Desiderio compares to a battlefield, will be aware of the conflicts in an unregulated market which places seemingly random values on artists' work. Desiderio sees the art world in its current predicament as a microcosm of the despair and degradation of the world. Yet even with disheartening conditions, he views painting as a method of changing the sensibility of society.

"[Artwork] reawakens dormant sensations of justice and freedom in people, which can lead people to figure out how to deal with situations. That's how painting will change the world," Desiderio said.

Speaking as a product of a liberal arts education (he graduated from Haverford in 1977), Desiderio stressed the importance of "art education for anybody [as] crucially important to the development of the brain." Even with the many challenges facing striving young artists, Desiderio was encouraging about their future.

"It's a long road ahead, but it's a very exciting road. If you can bite off more you can chew that will be good 'cause you'll be chewing for a lifetime," Desiderio said. "Don't give up at that crucial point. Push ahead."

Artisans' Corner



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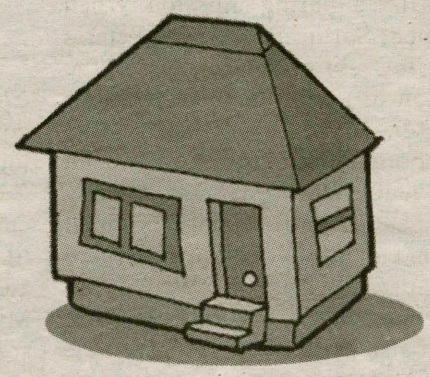

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PHOTO BY FIONA HOFFMAN-HARLAND '13

Senior Daniel Roberts looks to clear the Hamilton zone.

Ice hockey looks to lock down second place in the NESCAC

Seven wins are not enough for Conts

by Ashley Allen '12
Sports Contributor

Hamilton's men's hockey has rebounded from the two upsetting losses against ECAC teams, Castleton State (Jan. 21) and Skidmore (Jan. 22), and is getting ready for the upcoming postseason. The Continentals suffered a 4-2 loss against number one ranked Castleton State and an even more frustrating 4-3 loss against Skidmore. On the losses, Head Coach Norm Bazin said, "Castleton and Skidmore were two tough losses at home. However, they serve as a reminder that every weekend has the same importance. Our team will experience some peaks and valleys in the longest sports season in college athletics. How we manage these peaks and valleys will determine how mentally fit we are to handle the short playoff season."

Hamilton struck back after the two losses and beat University of Southern Maine 3-1 (Jan. 28). Evan Haney '14 scored to put Hamilton in a 1-0 lead with 7:56 into the first period assisted again by Joe Buicko '11 and John Ogden '13. The second goal came at 6:43 into the second period, scored by Nick Anderson '14, again assisted by Buicko and Michael DiMare '14. Buicko sealed the win scoring Hamilton's final goal with 53 seconds left in the third period. Goaltender Scott Hefferman '11 blocked 23 shots in the game.

Hamilton's winning streak continued when the offense kicked into gear with an impressive 10-7 win against University of New England. Joe Houk '13 had the game of his career contributing two goals and four assists for the Continentals. Hamilton's Anderson started the lead with a goal at 5:12 into the first period, which was followed by another eight goals in the second.

Hamilton faced another set of tough games when they played top NESCAC teams Colby and Bowdoin last weekend. The Continentals came away with two ties, 4-4 against Colby and 3-3 against Bowdoin. Coach Bazin was pleased with the games explaining,

"They responded as good teams do; they came to play hard both evenings under tough circumstances."

In both the Colby and Bowdoin games, multiple players had to step up and fill in for injured players. "Many different players picked up the slack for those missing from the lineup, including both goalies, Cam Gibbar '13 and Joey Quattrochi '14," said Bazin.

The weekend posed great challenges for the team, but the players competed hard, vying for home ice in the play offs.

Despite the effort, Bazin admitted, "There was a feeling after both games that we possibly could have managed more. I look at the positive out of the weekend, we managed to take a step, as a team, we gained a point from an opponent that currently sits a point ahead of us. We will continue to make adjustments to our game-plan."

The team remains in second place in the NESCAC rankings, a good position to be in heading into the post season, especially now that two out of the five injured players are back on the ice.

Up next this weekend for the Continentals are two ECAC schools: sixth-ranked St. Anselm's and seventh-ranked New England College. There are only four more regular season games left for the Continentals. After this weekend, they will play at the University of Massachusetts at Boston on Feb.18 and at Babson on Feb. 19. All will be of crucial importance because three other schools (Middlebury, Williams and Amherst) are within a game behind Hamilton.

They seek the opportunity to play at home at least one more time this season. Coach Bazin said, "We need to play well these next two weekends to earn the right to play at Sage Arena again this year. Our team would love to play in front of our great fans again!"

Young and old star for men's track and field

from ***Men's Track,*** *page 16*

the Week for the second time this season. Reider claimed, "It was a very exciting meet, and I am extremely honored to be rookie of the week again this season."

Much of the team's recent success may be due to the increased funding and attention track & field has received from the administration and student body. Due to the renovation of the Field House, the team was able to host three home meets over a very short season.

Although the advantage may seem minimal, a home court allows a team to become comfortable in a specific environment and allows Hamilton students to stop by and cheer for their friends. Alexis concurred and added, "With championships in the horizon all of our athletes are gearing up into shape. Last week we had a combined total of 22 season best and we anticipate better for our showdown this weekend."

The Continentals head into the weekend with high hopes for success, with Reider's goal being "a chance to win the Liberty League title as a team." The team will host the 2011 Liberty League indoor track and field championships this Saturday, Feb. 12 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Scott Field House.

Hamilton Sports

Scoreboard

Feb. 3 - Feb. 9

Men's Basketball
Feb. 4: 55-71 **LOSS** @ Skidmore
Feb. 5: 80-71 **WIN** @ Union
Feb. 8: 67-70 **LOSS** vs. Hobart

Women's Basketball
Feb. 4: 50-56 **LOSS** @ Skidmore
Feb. 5: 46-64 **LOSS** @ Union
Feb. 8: 53-67 **LOSS** vs. William Smith

Men's Hockey
Feb. 4 - 4-4 **TIE** vs. Colby
Feb. 5 - 3-3 **TIE** vs. Bowdoin

Women's Hockey
Feb. 4: 1-6 **LOSS** @ Middlebury
Feb. 5: 5-2 **WIN** @ Williams
Feb. 8: 2-1 **WIN** @ Utica College

Men's Squash
Feb. 4: 4-5 **LOSS** vs. Colby
Feb. 5: 8-1 **WIN** vs. Tufts
Feb. 5: 7-2 **WIN** vs. Conn. College

Women's Squash
Feb. 4: 9-0 **WIN** vs. Conn College
Feb. 5: 0-9 **LOSS** vs. Middlebury
Feb. 5: 7-2 **WIN** vs. Wesleyan
Feb. 6: 0-9 **LOSS** Amherst

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving
Feb. 5: 110-131 (M) **LOSS** @ Rensselaer
Feb. 5: 132-99 (W) **WIN** @ Rensselaer

Schedule

Feb. 10 - Feb. 17

Men's Basketball
Feb. 11 @ St. Lawrence [8 p.m.]
Feb. 12 @ Clarkson [4 p.m.]

Women's Basketball
Feb. 11 @ St. Lawrence [6 p.m.]
Feb. 12 @ Clarkson [2 p.m.]
Feb. 15 @ Middlebury [6 p.m.]

Men's Hockey
Feb. 11 @ Saint Anselm [7 p.m.]
Feb. 12 @ New England College [4 p.m.]

Women's Hockey
Feb. 11 vs. Conn. College [7 p.m.]
Feb. 12 vs. Conn. College [3 p.m.]

Men's Squash
Feb. 10 vs. Hobart [7 p.m.]
Feb. 12-13 Hamilton Invitational [10 a.m.]

Women's Squash
Feb. 12-13 Hamilton Invitational [10 a.m.]

Men's and Women's Track & Field
Feb. 12 Liberty League Championships [11 a.m.]

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Exorbitant college tuitions are a national disgrace. They are result of the ruthless financial policies of the boards of trustees of every college and university to squeeze every dime they can from students and parents.

The trustee system has become a dysfunctional, parasitic system bent on maximizing revenue and expenditures. Its monopoly of higher education preys on students and parents who have no alternative.

Each year Hamilton College, where I went to college, and other private institutions, raise their tuitions at a rate well above inflation. Hamilton's tuition is now $41,000. At the rate of inflation since 1960, it would be $8,000.

Tuition in 1960 was 19.6% of the median family income. In 2000, it was 51.1%. Today, it is 78%. From 2000 to 2008, median U.S. income rose from $50,000 to $52,029, while tuition at Hamilton rose from $26,000 to $38,532.

The class of 2014 will see tuition increases of $9,000 over their last three years. Each tuition hike is cumulative so they will have raises of $1,500, $3,000 and $4,500. This is $15 million for the college.

Where is the money going? It goes to luxury facilities, excessive wages and an incredible number of employees.

Hamilton is now building an art center at the cost of $135 million dollars. This will provide wing space for the theatre and better facilities for painting and drawing.

$135 million dollars is two years of zero tuition for the student body. Would Hamilton students and parents prefer to go out of Hamilton $82,000 richer, or have bigger rooms for art?

Does the President deserve a $350,000 salary? Do the Deans need $190,000 per year to make ends meet? Does Hamilton need a ratio of 1.0 employees (excluding bookstore) for every 2.3 students?

For a salary of about $80,000, (plus insurance and lifetime tenure), a professor at Hamilton teaches six hours of class per week one semester and nine hours per week the other. In former decades, it was twelve teaching hours per semester. This is more money for much less work.

Hamilton College ironically justifies tuition increases by stating they are for scholarships to pay for "rising tuition," which it creates by its profligate spending.

In the long-run, Hamilton "trustees," and "trustees" at other colleges must be replaced with a governing body and president elected by students, parents, alumni and faculty. The governing body should consist of parents, students, alumni and faculty.

Annual tuition hikes of ever-increasing amounts will continue at Hamilton and other colleges until parents and students organize and collectively bargain tuition. What can the trustees do in the face of an organized and cohesive student-parent organization? Fire the student body and receive nothing in tuition?

In the short-run, the 2011-12 tuition increase must be stopped.

The Hilltop Association was created to be run by Hamilton students. This will be a very real struggle for political and economic power. Hamilton students must lead this effort. It cannot be organized by parents or alumni off-campus.

Hamilton students must choose whether they want to govern their own fates or remain in the grip of an oligarchic, financially exploitive regime.

Hamilton students and parents pay over sixty million dollars per year in tuition. Yet, they and their parents have zero influence on the financial, academic and social conditions of the college.

Expertise must be obtained in law and finance from parents of students. An escrow account must be set up to handle millions in tuitions to force the Board to end tuition hikes. There should be an examination of Hamilton's budgets with recommendations toward ending tuition increases and instituting tuition decreases. Legal expertise must be involved to create a constitution for the college. Methods of ratifying the constitution and voting in subsequent elections must be created.

Throw the trustees out at Hamilton College and throw them out at all other colleges and universities.

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Paul Streitz
Hamilton '66
www.hilltopassociation.org

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H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 10, 2011

Fired up women's ice hockey team controls fate

by John Wulf '12
Sports Contributor

The stretch run is going to be awfully interesting for the Hamilton women's hockey team.

From here on out, they are masters of their own destiny. The team's remaining four contests will be against NESCAC opponents, all at home. Thanks to a tight playoff race, each game will determine playoff positioning. The team has an opportunity to jump two seeds higher, but could also fall in the seeding because of poor play.. They can finish anywhere between fourth and ninth in the NESCAC.

Hamilton's two heartbreaking losses against Amherst are distant memories, as the Continentals have since won four out of five games starting with two straight blowout victories over non-league opponents. First, Hamilton outshot Potsdam 40-13 while skating to a 4-2 victory. Then, after enjoying the weekend off, Hamilton won again with a 5-1 routing of SUNY Cortland. Against Cortland, Senior Captain Becky Cairns tallied two goals and an assist while Abby Runyon '13 added two assists. It was Runyon's second consecutive strong performance as she scored a goal and notched an assist previously against Potsdam. This past weekend, however, Hamilton again showed its variable nature.

After scoring 12 goals in the previous three games, Hamilton managed only one against Middlebury en route to a 6-1 loss. (The lone goal scorer was Stephanie Miguel '11 who scored her 44th career goal and her 96th career point).

While Middlebury was ranked seventh in the nation, it was a team Hamilton had held to three goals earlier in the season and a school Hamilton had beaten last year. Still, as the Continentals have done all season, they did not let one game affect the next.

Traveling to Williams, Hamilton reaffirmed its resilience with a 5-2 victory. Katie Zimmerman '13 scored her team leading ninth and tenth goals of the season while Becca Hazlett '13 made 28 saves. The win not only snapped a three-game NESCAC losing streak, but also put the team in position to make a run up the standings.

Right now, Hamilton (5-7 NESCAC, 9-10 overall,) is ranked sixth out of nine teams in the NESCAC. While the team has clinched a playoff spot, the girls have loftier goals in mind. If Hamilton wins out, the team can conceivably finish as high as third. More realistically, the team looks to finish fourth—which would put them in the top half of the standings and earn Hamilton a home playoff game. The first step to earning the fourth seed means beating the team one point ahead of them, Connecticut College.

This weekend, Hamilton will host Connecticut College at home. One win and a tie or two wins will push Hamilton ahead of Connecticut set up a huge game on Feb. 18 against the fourth-ranked Trinity Bantams of Hartford, Connecticut.

PHOTO BY FIONA HOFFMAN-HARLAND '13
Center Katie Zimmerman '13 gets ready for a faceoff.

FitzPatrick '11 establishes career bests in tough meet

Seniors West and Gunter also have successful days at Scott Field House

by Josh Orndorff '11
Sports Writer

On Saturday. Feb. 5, many of Hamilton's competitors rose to the challenge and posted season and career bests in a tough meet in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House. They continued a stretch of facing serious competition, this time from the likes of in-conference foes, Utica College, the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology as well as stiff competition from Division-1A teams like Syracuse University.

PHOTO BY BRETT HULL
Muriel Schwinn '13 posted a 7.67 in the 55-meter dash.

Senior Meredith FitzPatrick's career best time (11:09.62) and second place finish in the 3,000-meter run was Hamilton's highlight of the meet. Several other distance runners shared the same level of success. Erin West '11 and Maddy Gunter '11each had another strong showing, posting solid times in their respective events. West put down a 5:38 in the mile, and Gunter pulled double duty dropping times of 5:33.35 in the mile and 2:32.15 in the 800-meter run.

Sophomore Muriel Schwinn also had another solid day, recording a second place finish in the 55-meter dash, completing the sprint in only 7.67 seconds and winning the long jump with a leap of 5.18 meters. Emily Heckman '13 raced well in the 500-meter dash capturing second place in a time of 1:24.81.

The team will begin its championship season on Feb. 12 at Scott Field House when it hosts the Liberty League Championship meet.
Next week the team will head to Cornell for a tune up meet before traveling to St. Lawrence University on Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26 for the NYSCTC Championships.

Seniors star for men's track and field team

PHOTO BY BRETT HULL

by Caitlin O'Connor '14
Sports Editor

Although track and field is often overlooked at the collegiate level, the Hamilton men's team is on its way to bursting into the spotlight by dominating races and offering action-packed finishes to fans.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, the Continentals travelled to nearby Colgate University for a multi-divisional invitational. Coming off its first performance at a newly-renovated home court, the team was eager to prove their worth on someone else's turf.

Field performers had a great showing, with three Continentals placing second in their respective events. Senior Joshua Orndorff putted the shot 13.17 meters, while Jimmy Alexis '13 cleared 4.00 meters on the pole vault. First-year Jake London set his season best on the high jump with a height of 1.85 meters, trailing the leader less than 15 centimeters (approximately the length of a dollar bill).

The star of the meet was Scott Bickard '11, who finished first in the 5,000-meter run with a personal best of 15:29.65, finishing over seven seconds faster than any of his competitors, many of whom came from statewide D-I schools.

This past Saturday, Feb. 5, the men's track & field team hosted the Hamilton Invitational in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House. Although the meet was non-team scoring and multi-divisional, Hamilton clearly came away as the star of the day with two first place finishes and a plethora of spectacular performances.

Star senior Peter Kosgei returned to the track after a week off to win the mile by almost half a lap with a time of 4:17.40. Jimmy Alexis '13 also walked away with a first place finish after clearing 4.25 meters on the pole vault. The Liberty League honored both Kosgei and Alexis as performers of the week.

James Grebey '12 took third place in the 800 with a 1:59.54, less than a second behind the winner. Rookie Sam Reider '14 had another strong showing with a 52.07 in the 400-meter dash, garnering third place and Rookie of

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